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NEW MEDICAL DICTIONARY

Prof I. Kassirskiy

The five-volume Encyclopedic Dictionary of Military Medicine, published by Medgiz, Moscow, 1946-1948, is claimed by the editors (chief editor, Ye. I. Smirnov) to be the first such work published anywhere in the world. The dictionary contains some 100,000 terms, which are explained from a practical and historical standpoint. Over 1,000 surgeons, specialists, professors, and medical assistants contributed to this work.

This dictionary is somewhat limited in scope as it contains only information related to actual cases in military medicine.

The first part contains information on the history of the organization and tactics of the Medical Service. There is considerable information on the role of medicine in aviation. Articles by Spasskiy, Strel'tsov, and Brestkin discuss aviation hygiene, medicine, and physiology respectively. An article by Timofeyevskiy describes the role of automotive transport in present-day military medicine.

The editors attached great importance to proper communications in military medicine; consequently, the series contains many charts showing the best methods for transporting war wounded from the front to rear echelons.

Ya. Akodus is the author of a lengthy article on the hygienic problems encountered by combat troops in high-temperature regions.

Various aspects of military medicine, collected from data obtained during World War II, are presented in Volume 4.

The most serious defect of the series is that some of the articles do not discuss very thoroughly the various steps necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of specific diseases. The reviewer hopes that in subsequent editions more detailed reports will be given for such articles as "Military Field Therapy" and "Military Field Surgery."

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